

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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SENATOR THOMPSON: This bill amends a section of law that...of the...of the law that allows judges to make direct placements to institutions and facilities, but the county has to pay when they do that. It was not used until a few years ago.

SENATOR JENSEN: So this would, in essence, stop the out-of-state placements?

SENATOR THOMPSON: That were directly placed by judges.

SENATOR JENSEN: That were directly placed by...it doesn't change who picks up the cost of those placements.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes, it does?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Well, there wouldn't be any placements. Therefore, the only...those youth that are at that level would be placed with the Office of Juvenile Services, which transfers over to another section of law then that work...was worked on by Senator Suttle a couple years ago. And so if you're placed with OJS you have levels that you can be placed at, and that's the next gate.

SENATOR JENSEN: Do you have any idea, when we get done with this, what will be the impact on, say, Douglas County, Lancaster County in their budgets, and what will be the impact with the state budget?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes. If you'll go to this last page, first of all, this picks up these...this takes this ability away from the judges as of July 1, 2001, so from that point on, if...if an out-of-home placement needs to happen for those serious offenders, it will go to the Office of Juvenile Services. The Office of Juvenile Services will make the placement and pay for it. In the first year of the bill the counties, if they have youth in placements that were made prior to July 1, will have to continue to pay for them until either they're brought back under the court for another placement or they are...they're released from jurisdiction of the court. So there will be in the first year, July 2001 in the counties' budgets, in Lancaster and